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TS # 141974-d
Cy # 7
2 NOV 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: Briefing Note on NIE 11-5-59

1. The draft estimate reflects a complete, summer-long re-examination by GMAIC of the entire subject of Soviet research and development in missiles, as well as Soviet capabilities in space flight. A high degree of cooperation among the agencies was achieved in its preparation, at both the GMAIC and senior representatives' sessions. As a result, most reservations have been eliminated, with only major ones remaining.

2. About 35 of the paragraphs, on the ICBM, 700 and 1100 n. m. ballistic missiles, and submarine-launched missiles, have already been issued as the Advance Portion of NIE 11-5-59. For the convenience of the user, we recommend adding the following note to the Foreword and footnoting at appropriate places in the text:

Some changes have been made in the discussion of those missile systems which were included in the Advance Portion of NIE 11-5-59. These changes appear in paragraphs 52, 57, 59,

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60, 65, 71, and in Section VI, Table 1. They are identified by footnotes for the convenience of the user.

3. Most reservations deal with the problem of the RCH. Several appear in both the Discussion and the Summary and Conclusions. We recommend that you take them up in the Discussion first. They are:

p. 48, paragraph 62 (also appears in S. and C., p. 6). Defense, Joint Staff, Army and Navy footnote from Advance Portion on initial operational capability data. Since no new evidence on this question has become available since completing Advance Portion, we recommend you again accept their footnote.

pp. 50 - 50a, paragraph 63 (also appears in S. and C., p. 6). A new reservation by Air, that RCH accuracy should be estimated as 3 - 5 n. m. Air believes its experience and fragmentary data on Soviet firings support this spread. Since we and CMAIC have re-examined this question and the data seem too fragmentary to support Air's position, we recommend no change.

p. 31, paragraph 17. Air footnote from Advance Portion, advancing theory that two different ICBMs have been tested at Tyura Tarn. There is no new evidence to support this, and we recommend you again accept the footnote.

p. 37, Table 1. We have reconsidered ICBM reliability, and have raised our estimate of its initial inflight reliability from 50 to 55 percent. Air will probably wish to estimate 60 percent, which we consider unsupported by evidence and inconsistent with the rest of the table. We recommend no further change.

4. There is one other reservation, by Army.

pp. 19-20, paragraph 21 (also appears in 2. and C., p. 3) Army believes certain advanced types of surface-to-air missiles, for defense against satellites and for mobile defense of field forces, will probably be developed. We agree that they could be, but in the absence of evidence or an urgent requirement, we believe they are possible. Recommend no change.

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5. The specially-classified annexes are not proposed for USIB consideration until a later meeting. We would like to discuss with you some proposals for their handling.

6. We recommend that this estimate not be released to USIA.

7. Post-Mortem and Validity Study will be submitted at a later date.

FOR THE BOARD OF NATIONAL ESTIMATES:

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